

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Shannon D. Pinto

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FORWARD FUND THE  
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the bureau of Indian affairs operates the higher  
education grant program as authorized by the Snyder Act and  
provides higher education scholarships; and

WHEREAS, numerous Indian tribes administer the higher  
education grant program through Public Law 93-638 self-  
determination contracts or through Public Law 100-472 self-  
governance compacts; and

WHEREAS, the federal government routinely operates under  
continuing resolutions, which results in delayed funding to the  
bureau of Indian affairs; consequently, payment of college  
scholarships and institutional disbursements are delayed; and

WHEREAS, this is problematic for Indian college students

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 who depend on these scholarship payments to pay for tuition,  
2 books and room and board; all too often, Indian students arrive  
3 on campus with little or no money; and

4 WHEREAS, there is precedent for forward funding of federal  
5 Indian education programs in that bureau of Indian education  
6 kindergarten through twelfth grade schools and tribally  
7 controlled colleges and universities have been forward funded;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, forward funding is a budget authority that is  
10 made available for obligation in the last quarter of the fiscal  
11 year for the financing of ongoing activities during the next  
12 fiscal year; and

13 WHEREAS, forward funding achieves two outcomes: it  
14 provides funding for two years in advance and makes funds  
15 available on July 1 of each year, and it shields the grant  
16 program from government shutdowns, which allows tribes to  
17 disburse grant funds ahead of the academic year;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislature request the  
20 United States congress to take affirmative steps to forward  
21 fund the higher education grant program of the bureau of Indian  
22 education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the speaker of the United States house of  
25 representatives, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the

.216531.1

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Navajo Nation office of the president and vice president, the  
2 Navajo Nation council, the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, the  
3 Mescalero Apache Tribe and the all Pueblo council of governors.

4 - 3 -  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25